

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-07 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
ACDA-10 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ERDA-07
ERDE-00 /114 W

-----036662 241804Z /41

O 241702Z AUG 77 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8544

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4325

LAGOS FOR YOUNG, MOOSE AND MC HENRY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNUC, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ON NUCLEAR ISSUE AND
PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT

REF: PRETORIA 4305

1. WITH ONE EXCEPTION, JOHANNESBURG AND PRETORIA PAPERS
OF AUGUST 24 USED INSIDE PAGES TO REPORT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S
PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT YESTERDAY ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA'S LIBERAL
RAND DAILY MAIL, CARRIED LEAD STORY HEADLINED "SA GIVES CARTER N-BOMB

PLEDGE" AND REPEATED FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S
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REMARKS. THE ARTICLE ALSO INCLUDED REFERENCE TO EARLIER
DENIALS BY PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AND PIK BOTHA THAT
SOUTH AFRICA HAD PLANS TO EXPLODE A NUCLEAR DEVICE.

2. UNDER HEADLINE "CARTER SPEECH DEFUSES NUCLEAR
BOMB ROW," JOHANNESBURG AFTERNOON PAPER THE STAR

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CARRIED A SIMILAR STORY, WHICH ALSO INCLUDED QUOTATIONS FROM A STATEMENT BY THE STATE DEPT PRESS SPOKESMAN TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD NO INTENTION TO EXPLODE A NUCLEAR DEVICE. PRETORIA NEWS

HEADLINED PRACTICALLY THE SAME REPORT, "A-BLAST DENIAL ACCEPTED BY US."

3. THE AFRIKAANS PRESS AND THE CONSERVATIVE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER THE CITIZEN CONCENTRATED ON THE FACT THAT

PM VORSTER IS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK PUBLICLY IN CAPE TOWN TONIGHT AND WILL PROBABLY ADDRESS THE NUCLEAR ISSUE. THE ARTICLES ALSO REPEAT PREVIOUS OFFICIAL DENIALS THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS PLANNING A NUCLEAR TEST.

4. THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN THE AREA TO EDITORIALIZE AUGUST 24 ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTION WAS THE AFRIKAANS-LANGUAGE BEELD, WHICH, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE PRESIDENT'S

STATEMENT, COMMENTED THAT THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER MUST BE "SUFFERING FROM HALLUCINATIONS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN INTENTIONS AND THAT IT WAS A SAD DAY WHEN THE WEST (SPECIFICALLY THE US, UK AND FRANCE) COULD BE SO CYNICAL ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN DENIALS.
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(SEE JOHANNESBURG 2233 NOTAL.)BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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